

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOR HIRSCH

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV FROM
JERUSALEM MAY 11:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 671

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: HANOCH SMITH COMMENTS ON FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 3139

1. SPEAKING "OFF-THE-RECORD" BEFORE THE ROTARY CLUB OF
JERUSALEM ON 11 MAY 1977, MR. HANACH SMITH SAID HE WOULD
NOT DISCUSS SPECIFIC RESULTS OF HIS LATEST POLL, WHICH WILL
APPEAR IN "MA'ARIV" ON 13 MAY, BUT DISCUSS GENERAL FINDINGS
AND TRENDS BASED ON PREVIOUS POLLS. FOLLOWING ARE SALIENT
POINTS HE MADE WHICH NOT COVERED IN REFTEL:

A. CAMPAIGN IS CHARACTERIZED BY LIKUD OPPOSITION
ATTACKING LABOUR ALIGNMENT ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES,
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FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY THE
VOTERS, WITH THE LABOUR ALIGNMENT DEFENDING ITSELF ON
DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, IN WHICH IT HAS VOTER
SUPPORT. SENSING POPULAR SUPPORT OF LABOUR ON LATTER
TWO ISSUES, BEGIN HAS CHANGED HIS USUAL ATTACK FROM QUOTE MORE
AND BETTER DEFENSE UNQUOTE TO QUOTE PEACE FROM
STRENGTH UNQUOTE.

B. THE MINORITIES (ARABS), WHO MAKE UP 8 PERCENT OF ELECTORATE, ARE SWINGING SOMEWHAT AWAY FROM RAKAH TOWARDS SHELLI. ORIENTAL JEWS, WHO ARE 39 PERCENT OF ELECTORATE ARE CHANGING THEIR VOTING PATTERN: THE YOUNGER AND EDUCATED ARE SWINGING TOWARDS DMC; THE OLDER ARE STAYING WITH LIKUD. EUROPEAN JEWS, WHO ARE ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF ELECTORATE. ARE ALSO SHIFTING WITH YOUNGER AND EDUCATED SWINGING TOWARDS DMC; WHILE OLDER ARE REMAINING WITH LABOUR ALIGNMENT. THRID GENERATION SABRAS, WHO ARE THE FOURTH HOMOGENOUS GROUP AND MAK UP ONLY 4 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE,ARE MOVING IN TWO DIRECTIONS: THE EDUCATED TOWARDS THE DMS; THE YOUNGER (18-39 YEAR-OLDS) TOWARDS THE LIKUD. SMITH STRESSED THE FACT THAT THERE WERE STILL AN INORDINATELY LARGE NUMBER OF UNDECIDED VOTERS.

C. SMITH SAW BOTH MAJOR PARTIES LOSING SOME SUPPORT WITH THE LIKUD LOSING THE MOST. THE BIGGEST WINNER WILL BE THE DMC, WHICH WILL EMERGE UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG - OBTAINING AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM OF 10 SEATS. THUS THE DMC WILL BE THE PIVOTAL POWER IN THE NEXT GOVERNMENT. THE REALIGNMENT OF POWER AMONG THE PARTIES WILL MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT.

D. IN CONTRAST TO PLACING HIS NOTES IN A QUOTE CLOSED UNQUOTE FILE AFTER THE LAST ELECTIONS INDICATING HE DID NOT EXPECT AT THAT TIME THAT THE GOVENMENT WOULD CHANGE SHOULD IT ELECT TO REMAIN IN OFFICE FOR THE FULL FOUR YEAR TERM, SMITH SAID HE WAS NOW PLACING HIS NOTES IN A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FILE MARKED QUOTE EMPORARY, UNQUOTE. GIVEN THE EXPECTED DIFFICULTY IN FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE THE DMC, AND GIVEN THE DMC'S PLATFORM FOR ELECTORAL REFORM AND NEW ELECTIONS WITHIN TWO YEARS, SMITH SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY NEW GOVERNMENT EMERGING FROM THIS ELECTION TO LAST A FULL TERM. NEWLIN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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